

Wakeman Town Farm Full Committee Meeting
Feb 06, 2023

Committee Members Present: Nicole Gerber, Amy Ancel, Paul Rossi, Anne Burmeister, Alice Ely, Susan Schmidt, Haley Schulman, Judy Sloan

Others Present: John Montoni, Sharon Broza-Stone, Noelle Slomich, Ellen Goldman, Jennifer Whittle

Secretary: Nicole Gerber

Education

- Spring sign ups should go live on ActiveNet shortly.
- Information about Spring and Summer camps is currently live on the Wakeman Town Farm website.
- The Rugged Bear class begins this Thursday, the class is sold out.
- We are holding three Caregiver + Baby classes per week.
- Sign-ups for Backyard Chicken Keeping are live on website.

Sponsorships

- Sponsor renewal letters have gone out. So far four sponsors have renewed for 2023.
- Renewal letters for Chicken Sponsorship will go out at the beginning of March.
- Four organizations have reached out so far for Giving Trifecta Days.
- Introduced new volunteer, Jennifer Whittle, who will be helping out with public relations

Pond Project

- LandTech has offered to donate their design and consulting services. They will also be on hand in the Spring to do water testing with the Staples High School interns.
- Phase 1 of the project will involve two rounds of mowing invasive to 8" as well as manual weed control. There will be opportunities for volunteers to help.
- Soil amending plants will also be planted during Phase 1.
- We discussed inviting Master Gardeners to identify invasive species growing on the pond lands. This will help us to track the remediation process.

Animals

- We took an informal poll to gauge Committee interest in adding three Babydoll lambs to the herd. All present were unanimously in favor.
- We will not be adding piglets to the herd at this time.
- Laura Miller of Millmont Farm, who is lending us two Nigerian Dwarf goat does again this year, is confirming pregnancy this week. Once pregnancy is confirmed, we will set a date for the goats to arrive at the Farm.

General Farm Update

- WTF has officially taken over the 1-acre field across the street from the Farm. It was fenced in last week. The inner portion of the field will be planted with deep rooted, nitrogen amending plants to help aerate and prepare the soil for future crops.
- The outer portion of the field will be planted with deer resistant pollinator-friendly plants
- We do have water access for irrigation in this area.
- Farmer Sharon introduced Dasha, our new farmhand. We are looking to add one more farmhand.
- Maple tapping starts this Wednesday (2/08) at 9:00am. The first Saturday in March will be an open boil day. The public is welcome to come and learn about the maple syrup making process.
- March 26th is the annual Master Gardener turning workshop. This is not open to the public.

January 13, 2023

cc: Liz Milwe & Bill Constantino, co-chairs, Wakeman Town Farm Committee